

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-4 and 13 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 13 are independent. Claims 5-12 have been canceled, Applicants reserving the right to file claims 5-12 in a divisional patent application. Also, claim 13 is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, without narrowing the scope of the claim. No new matter is involved. Basis for the amendments to claim 13 including the frictional contact feature, is found throughout Applicants' originally filed patent application, for example, in originally filed claim 1 and in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the main body of Applicants' specification, and in the drawing figures.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for reviewing the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on February 17, 2006 and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Entry of Amendment

Applicants respectfully submit that it is proper to enter the amendment to claim 13 because it makes claim 13 clear and definite and consistent with Applicants' originally filed disclosure, and eliminates the only outstanding issues with respect to claim 13, which has not been rejected on art. Moreover, the amendment cancels claims 5-12, thereby furthering prosecution of this Application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action also indicates that the fourth full paragraph on page 7 of the main body of the specification seems to contradict the statement in the claims that where during the less vibration, the damping member is adhered to the inner surface. Applicants agree, and have amended claim 13 to be consistent with the quoted fourth full paragraph on page 7 of the main body of Applicants' specification. As amended, claim 13 now correctly recites that the movable damping member that is up and down movably fitted into the second groove, is not contacted to the inner surface of the cylinder in case that the width size of vibration transferred to the tub is relatively less.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-4.

Applicants also respectfully submit that claim 13 is allowable based on its amendment to make it consistent with the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 should be allowed, also.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application, including claims 1-4 and 13, is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert J. Webster, Registration No. 46,472, at (703) 205-8076, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Application No. 10/755,139
Reply to August 15, 2006 Office Action

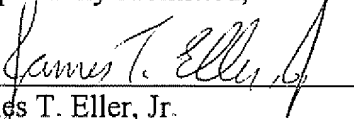
Docket No.: 0630-1919P

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: November 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By



James T. Eller, Jr.

Registration No.: 39,538

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

